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Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

Currency

The official unit of currency is the Kenyan shilling, consisting of 100 cents.

General

Kenya is located on the E coast of Africa. It is bounded on the N by Ethiopia and Sudan, on the S by Tanzania, and on the E by Somalia and the Indian Ocean.

Much of the land in the N and E parts is arid. From the coastal lowlands, the land rises through a wide arid plain to the highlands. Mount Kenya, 5,199m high, rises in the W part. Several plateaus, 910 to 3,000m high, stand between the mountain ranges and provide some of Africa's most fertile soil. The Great Rift Valley extends S from Lake Turkana and divides the central highlands from the W plateau, which gradually descends to Lake Victoria. The Tana, rising on the slopes of Mount Kenya, is the principal river. It is navigable by shallow-draft vessels for about 200 miles above the mouth.

The climate is tropical with wet and dry seasons. However, considerable variations in altitude form differing conditions between the hot, coastal lowlands and the cooler plateaus. Heavy rain falls during April and May, but a second wet season, in November and December, occurs in some places.

Government



Flag of Kenya

Kenya achieved independence from the United Kingdom on December 12, 1963 and became a one-party republic within the Commonwealth. In 1991, opposition parties were legalized.

The President is directly elected for a 5-year term and appoints ministers to the cabinet. The legislature consists of a 222-member unicameral National Assembly.

The country is divided into the Nairobi Municipality and seven provinces, over which there are local councils with administrative functions.

The legal system is based on English common law, tribal law, and Islamic law.

The capital is Nairobi.

Holidays

The following holidays are observed:

New Year's Day	January 1
Good Friday	Varies
Easter Monday	Varies
Labor Day	May 1
Madaraka Day	June 1
Moi Day	October 10
Kenyatta Day	October 20
Jamhuri Day	December 12
Christmas Day	December 25
Boxing Day	December 26

Eid-il-Fitr, an Islamic holiday subject to the appearance of the moon, is also celebrated.

Industries

Range land covers almost four-fifths of the country and produces mainly livestock products and also wild game, which comprises the major attraction of the country's tourist industry.

Other industries include agricultural processing, oil refining, small-scale consumer goods, cement, textiles, and mining. Coffee, tea, sisal, pyrethrum, coconuts, cashews, cotton, sugar, and maize are the principal crops.

Languages

The official languages are Swahili and English. There are many tribal languages.

Time Zone

The Time Zone description is CHARLIE (-3). Daylight Savings Time is not observed.

World Time Zone Chart

<http://www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook/ref/pdf/802801.pdf>

U.S. Embassy

The U.S. Embassy is situated on Mombasa Road near St. James Hospital, in Nairobi.

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U. S. Embassy Kenya Home Page

<http://usembassy.state.gov/nairobi>